Medium_EnglishPassage_2033
Disaster Management and Preparedness

Words: 403, Characters: 3060 **LEVEL: MEDIUM**

The geographical location and diverse topography of the Indian subcontinent make it 83
highly vulnerable to a wide spectrum of natural calamities: severe earthquakes, 163
destructive cyclones, sudden flash-floods, and prolonged droughts. According to 243
recent government data, nearly 58% of the total landmass is prone to seismic activity; 330
similarly, around 12% of the land is susceptible to recurrent river flooding. In the 415
past, the administrative response to these catastrophic events was largely 490
reactive—the government machinery only mobilized relief funds and rescue teams 569
after the disaster had already destroyed thousands of lives. However, the enactment 653
of the Disaster Management Act in the year 2005 marked a historic paradigm shift 734
from a reactive 'relief-centric' approach to a proactive 'prevention-and-mitigation' 819
strategy. This critical legislation led to the establishment of the National Disaster 905
Response Force (NDRF), a specialized, highly trained, multi-disciplinary force 984
consisting of 16 active battalions. These brave personnel are equipped with modern 1067
rescue gear: inflatable rubber boats, deep-penetrating radar systems, and trained 1149
sniffer dogs. One of the most remarkable success stories of this proactive approach 1233
was witnessed during the evacuation procedures for Cyclone Phailin in 2013 and 1312
Cyclone Amphan in 2020. By utilizing highly accurate satellite-based meteorological 1396
predictions, local authorities successfully evacuated over 1.2 million coastal residents 1485
to safe storm shelters within just 48 hours; this extraordinary logistical feat minimized 1575
the human casualty rate to almost zero. Furthermore, India is a committed signatory 1659
to the 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction' (2015-2030), which strongly 1741
emphasizes building resilient urban infrastructure. As smart cities rapidly expand, 1825
urban planners must strictly enforce earthquake-resistant building codes and 1902
maintain unobstructed natural drainage channels to prevent devastating urban floods. 1987
Despite these technological and institutional upgrades, community preparedness 2066
remains the weakest link in the safety chain. When an emergency strikes, the local 2149
community is always the 'first responder' before the official army/police teams arrive. 2237
Therefore, it is absolutely essential to conduct regular mock-drills in schools, 2318
hospitals, and residential societies to teach basic survival skills: administering 2401
first-aid, operating fire-extinguishers, and identifying safe assembly points. 2480
Additionally, setting up efficient, multi-lingual early-warning broadcasting 2557
systems—using mobile SMS alerts and local FM radio stations—can save countless 2636
lives in remote tribal villages. Ultimately, managing a natural disaster requires 2718
seamless, 24/7 coordination between various stakeholders: the central armed forces, 2802

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state governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local civic bodies. By **2887**
investing heavily in scientific research and community education, we can successfully **2973**
transform our vulnerable population into a highly resilient and well-prepared society. **3060**